

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2416

INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO

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EO: 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR CO EC

SUBJ: ECUADORIAN EXILES INVITED TO LEAVE COLOMBIA

REF: BOGOTA 12019

1. BOGOTA PRESS REPORTED DEC 16 THAT 30 EXILED ECUADORIANS WHO MAKE UP THE ANTI-RODRIGUEZ "JUNTA CIVICA" (REFTEL) HAVE BEEN ASKED TO LEAVE COLOMBIA BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT OF SECURITY (DAS). THE REQUEST WAS MADE BECAUSE OF THE EXILES' ACTIVITIES AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT OF ECUADOR. FOLLOWING THE GOC ACTION, FORMER ECUADORIAN PRESIDENT VELASCO CANCELLED HIS PROPOSED VISIT TO BOGOTA.

2. PRESS REPORTS STATED THAT THE JUNTA CIVICA CLAIMED SUPPORT FROM MILITARY GROUPS NOW IN ECUADOR AND HAD PLANNED AN ANTI-RODRIGUEZ OPERATION, BEGINNING WITH ACTION ON THE ECUADOR-COLOMBIA BORDER AND AROUND GUAYAQUIL. THE COORDINATOR OF THE OPERATION WAS TO HAVE BEEN EX-GENERAL LEONIDAS PLAZA, WHO WOULD HAVE BECOME PROVISIONAL PRESIDENT UPON SUCCESS OF THE COUP. THE OPERATION WAS TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE DURING DECEMBER. DESPITE TODAY'S REVELATION OF THE EXILES' PLAN AND THE REQUEST TO LEAVE COLOMBIA, SOME MEMBERS OF THE JUNTA CIVICA CLAIMED THAT THE PLAN WILL STILL TAKE EFFECT AT SOME TIME IN THE FUTURE AND THAT PUBLIC

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KNOWLEDGE OF IT WILL NOT BE A PROBLEM. SO FAR, THERE HAS BEEN NO

INDICATION AS TO WHERE THE EXILES WILL NOW REGROUP.

3. COMMENT: AS REPORTED IN REFTTEL, GOC WAS UNLIKELY TO ALLOW THE EXILES TO DAMAGE RELATIONS WITH ECUADOR. THE RAPID ACTION AGAINST THE JUNTA CIVICA AND THE REPORTED INVOLVEMENT OF COLOMBIAN "SECRET AGENTS" IN THE MOVE TO EXPOSE THE EXILES' PLAN REFLECT THE EXTENT OF COLOMBIA'S CONCERN OVER THE JUNTA'S ACTIVITIES.

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